

2nd December, 1974

The President of the Supreme Soviet of  
the U. S. S. R.  
MOSCOW  
U. S. S. R.

Dear Mr. Podgorny

I understand that the scientist Alexandre Goldfarb and his wife have been denied an exit visa to go to Israel on the grounds that his scientific work has given him information which is important to the security of the U. S. S. R. I know Goldfarb personally, having met him in Moscow in 1971 and am familiar with his work. I should like to assure you that the idea that such work is important to your security is quite ridiculous. Excuses of this type, made by petty officials, only make your government an object of ridicule in informed circles. I am sure you would wish to avoid giving such an impression.

I hope that now that the matter has been brought to your attention you will ask your officials to remove this objection to his going to Israel. Otherwise I should have no option but to raise the matter in a public manner. If you are not prepared to take my unsupported opinion on this matter, may I ask you to approach Academician Engelhardt (or some similar Russian scientist of international standing) and ask him to confirm that the excuse given in this case can only appear ridiculous to scientists abroad.

I feel I do not need to restate the general reason for allowing certain of your Jewish scientists to go to Israel as this has been done many times already by others. In the case of Alexandre Goldfarb the fact that he has at the moment no employment in your country suitable to his capacities would appear to be an additional reason for allowing him and his wife an exit visa.

Perhaps you would be so good as to acknowledge receipt of this letter as you would a diplomatic one.

Yours sincerely

F. H. C. Crick, F. R. S.  
Ph. D.  
Nobel Laureate